Policy for the implementation of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activities associated with Higher and Technical Education

Government of Maharashtra
Higher and Technical Education Department
Government Resolution No.: HTED-11036(11)/2/2013-MHT-(TE-2)
Mantralaya Annex, Mumbai-400 032.
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PREAMBLE

The State through Department of Higher & Technical Education has been investing substantial efforts in improving the quality of higher education in Maharashtra by implementing reforms to enable administrative systems to execute the necessary programs and practices to improve the quality of higher education in the state.

2.   The efforts of the corporate bodies shall be of vital importance in achieving these objectives as they will be complimentary to the overall functioning of the department. The corporate bodies are willing to support the department; however there is a need to create a framework to support the corporate efforts and channelize them so that their contributions add to the objectives of the department in general. In view of this Government was in the process of framing policy for the acceptance of funds under Corporate Social Responsibility funding.

Resolution

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) comprises of the efforts and commitment made by businesses to contribute to economic and social development of the local community and society at large. One of the most significant indicators of social progress is higher education, which plays a decisive role for a society to achieve self sustainable and equal development.

2. Business Community/ Corporate sector can provide effective solutions to various social, environmental and economic issues related to their business operations and /or the needs of the local community needs. The Industry and academic institutions have been actively involved in various activities like Teacher Training programmes, Student–Industry Partnerships, Joint Research initiatives, Paper Presentations and many other such activities which are well defined by bodies like University Grants Commission (UGC) and All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE). With an increasing global realization of how business community can (and should) contribute to social objectives, education deserves a higher level of corporate involvement than status quo.

3. Corporate Social Responsibility and sustainable development can be addressed by the business community by planning, implementing and supporting various 'higher education related' CSR activities. Considering the financial elements associated with such activities as mentioned above, there is a need of forming a legal framework for CSR activities under the department of Higher and Technical Education. Thus all CSR activities in the sector of Higher and Technical Education in the State shall be conducted under policy explained henceforth-

A. Objective

The objective of this policy is to facilitate, coordinate and monitor Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) support and activities in Maharashtra in the field of Higher & Technical Education.

B. Approach

To ensure that the CSR activities in each district are processed through a smooth and efficient acceptance process, all the CSR proposals either directly from the corporate bodies or from institutes or administrative offices/ field offices related to institutes of higher

& technical education shall be processed through a centrally established "CSR Cell" and further acceptance shall be done by a 'State CSR Steering Committee'. Any CSR proposal related to higher & technical education from any of the districts in Maharashtra shall be channelized to the CSR Cell via the regional offices of the related Directorates.

C. State CSR Steering Committee: Composition, Functions, Roles and Responsibilities-

   i. The State CSR Steering Committee shall have specified roles and responsibilities as described below.

- Facilitating action planning, decision making and resolution of issues to improve the execution of CSR support for higher & technical education in Maharashtra.
- Empowering the relevant Directorates, field officers and other relevant enablers in the higher & technical education system to manage the implementation of CSR initiatives while providing linkages to the overall approach for improvement in higher & technical education led by the department.
- Acting as first level of contact for all corporate bodies who wish to carry out CSR activities in multiple districts or at the state level. Their contact details would be uploaded on the CSR Webpage of the Department's portal.

   ii. Composition-

The State CSR Steering Committee will consist of 8 members who will be chaired by Principal Secretary, Department of Higher & Technical Education (or designated representative). The members of the steering committee will be nominated in consultation with relevant experts and stakeholders. The members shall be drawn from:

- Department of Higher & Technical Education
- Corporate Sector
- Civil Society Organizations
- Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- Department Consultants

The terms of the selected members of the committee will be 2 years renewable by one more term at the discretion of the Chairman, Steering committee.

   iii. Key Functions

The functions of the steering committee shall include:

- Preparing a framework for management and facilitation of higher & technical education related CSR activities
- To evaluate and approve requests for CSR activities by reviewing the need/issues addressed as well as the proposed plan, timelines, and projected outcomes
- To facilitate execution of the CSR activities by connecting to the relevant directorates, Field Office and other relevant enablers in the higher & technical education system
- To monitor and support the execution and completion of CSR activities
- To develop and implement actions to enable sustainability of implemented CSR activities
- To gather and maintain appropriate reports highlighting the baseline, midline and end-line metrics achieved due to the implementation of the CSR activities
- To propose and initiate request for CSR support to augment initiatives undertaken by the Department of Higher & Technical Education
- To release "request for support" proposal to various companies who have expressed interest in supporting education related initiatives
- To channel CSR support to mitigate funding gaps for specified Department of Higher & Technical Education initiatives

- To provide report on a periodic basis on the progress of specified initiatives implemented by the department of Higher & Technical Education funded (partially or in full) by CSR support
- To publish information regarding requirements for infrastructure or other support at various institutes of higher & technical education (by district and cluster)
- To facilitate matching of CSR interest and need at the community/local level
- To enable planning and execution of interventions based on needs identified by relevant district and cluster level officers of the Department of Higher & Technical Education
- To support in identifying relevant implementation/execution partners with relevant skills and capabilities required (such as NGOs, contractors, education experts, trainers, etc.)
- To share best practices of successful CSR initiatives from within and outside of the State

iv. **CSR Cell**

The State Steering Committee would be assisted by the CSR cell in the department which shall provide project management support. This team would ensure that all information regarding CSR activities, the policy details and contact details of various committees is available on a dedicated webpage under the department's website. They would assist the Committee in collation of data regarding application, approval and progress of CSR activities throughout the state. The CSR Cell would assist the department in monitoring the performance of various CSR initiatives. It shall also propose suitable metrics to monitor the performance of the district level directorate offices. The approval rate, timely completion of project, feedback from companies etc. can be some of the parameters to judge the performance. The activities of CSR cell at the initial stage shall be conducted through consultancy services available under department and shall be taken over by department officials at the later stage.

D. Types of CSR Activities

The following list (not intended to be comprehensive) provides a shortlist of the types of CSR activities that may be supported:

i. **Point Solutions – Faster to implement**

- Build infrastructure (compound walls, classrooms, toilets, playground, drinking water facilities, study centers, libraries, study centers, computer labs, research facilities, virtual learning facilities, art galleries, hostels etc.)
- Organize Sports and Health camps
- Organize and provide support structure for counseling students of higher & technical education – providing guidance on studies (identifying key areas of interests/skills) as well as overall personality development
- Provide student scholarships based on academic or non-academic criteria
- Provide logistics and other material support (i.e., transportation facility, equipments like Drafter & Sheet Container, Books etc.)
- Develop and manage a competition or awards program for 'Best Teacher'; 'Best Principal; 'Best Administrator'; 'Best College/ Institute/ University'; etc.
- Involvement of Industry in accreditation of academic institutes
- Carrier Counseling and guidance
- up gradation of Laboratories and Libraries
- Patenting processes
- Examination reforms such as evaluation methods of student performance
- Student exchange programme within and outside India

- Preservation of old paintings and sculptors available in various Arts institutes/ Directorate
- Support through IT and ITES
- Formation of incubation Centers for innovative ideas
- Migrant Skilled Force dormitories etc

ii. System-wide solutions - Longer timelines
- Establish Model institutes in various districts based on a comprehensive approach to support and improve infrastructure, teacher support (training and mentorship), principal support, administrator support, curriculum matched course planning, continuous & comprehensive evaluation (CCE), College Management Committee (CMC), etc.
- Provide need-based teacher training and mentoring support by introducing new teaching tools/ methods and student centered learning technique as well as curriculum based teaching support
- Provide ICT based tools including content and appropriate training for skill enhancement of teachers, students, principals and administrators
- Provide assistance in delivering vocational education & training in colleges/ institutes of higher & technical education including content, materials, infrastructure and career guidance to students based on skills/interest
- Develop and provide teaching methods and tools for students with disabilities
- Public Private Partnership

4. However during any of the CSR activities, no land or any other assets of the Government shall be transferred to the company carrying out CSR activities and Department will not take responsibility for any kind of liabilities during such activities.

This Government resolution of Maharashtra Government is available at the website www.maharashtra.gov.in. Reference no. for this is 201401301126598708. This order has been signed digitally. 201401301126598708

By order and in the name of the Governor of Maharashtra.

(Dr. Abhay Wagh)
Deputy Secretary to Government

Copy forwarded to:

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2. Private Secretary to Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra
3. Private Secretary to Hon'ble Minister, Higher & Technical Education Department
4. Private Secretary to Hon. State Minister, Higher & Technical Education Department
5. Vice Chancellors of all Universities in Maharashtra
6. Vice Chancellor, Institute of Chemical Technology, Mumbai
7. Commissioner, Directorate of Vocational Education and Training, Maharashtra State, Mumbai
8. Director, Directorate of Technical Education, Maharashtra State, Mumbai
9. Director, Directorate of Higher Education, Maharashtra State, Pune
10. Director, Directorate of Higher Education, Maharashtra State, Pune
11. Director, Directorate of Arts, Maharashtra State, Mumbai
12. Director, Directorate of Libraries, Maharashtra State, Mumbai

13. Joint Director/ Deputy Directors, Regional Offices of all Directorates (through related Directorate)
14. All Joint Secretaries/ Deputy Secretaries, Higher and Technical Education Department
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